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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

December 1, 1967

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Congressman

I 11 D.C

Honorable Robert McClory, M. C.
 1123 House Office Building
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

1967 90th congress - 1st session

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I have carefully read the six-page letter dated November 29, 1967, regarding S. 917, which is pending before the Committee on the Judiciary, and frankly am surprised at the erroneous statements and conclusions it contains.

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K. P. Sch

As requested, I have re-examined Section 604 (not Section 606 as stated in your letter) and find that it authorizes the Federal Bureau of Investigation to:

1. conduct a National Institute of Law Enforcement Training at the FBI National Academy. (The FBI National Academy was founded more than 30 years ago and is a glowing example of that Bureau's long-established expertise in the police training field.)
2. provide training to state and local officers at the National Institute of Law Enforcement Training "at the request of any State or local governmental unit." (As noted above, the FBI has been engaged in such training activities for more than three-decades.)
3. develop improved equipment and techniques for the prevention and reduction of crime, as well as for the detection and apprehension of criminals. (This is another field where the FBI has earned a well-deserved reputation for leadership, industry and ingenuity.)
4. assist in conducting local and regional schools for the training of law enforcement personnel "at the request of any State or local governmental unit." (Here again, the FBI has a background of knowledge, ability and experience extending back more than 30 years.)

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Section 604 further provides that in exercising the above duties, the FBI shall be under the supervision of the Attorney General---as has been the case since the Bureau was founded nearly 60 years ago.

I find absolutely nothing in S.917 which by inference or by word "places all Federally-assisted training of state and local law enforcement personnel...under the direction of the FBI." Furthermore, I can find no basis for your belief "that the approach to police training conducted and controlled by the FBI, as presently provided by S.917, would be the first (and dangerous) step in the eventual federalization of our state and local police forces."

S.917 provides that requests must be made by State and local governmental units for FBI training assistance, and it guarantees that control over local and regional police training schools shall remain with the States and municipalities themselves.

No one has been more steadfast or outspoken in his opposition to the concept of a national police force---nor to Federal encroachment on the sovereignty and prerogatives of State and local authorities---than J. Edgar Hoover. To suggest that he, knowingly or otherwise, would be a party to any program which carries in it the seeds of Federal supervision or control over the law enforcement profession is to confess a complete lack of knowledge or understanding of the path followed by this outstanding man throughout his dedicated career of public service. Nor would I be a party to such a scheme.

I can only conclude from your letter of November 29th that you have been sorely misled.

I hope you are doing nicely, and with best wishes,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

Senator

S.C.

ST:s

cc: Senator Everett M. Dirksen
Senator Roman L. Hruska
Senator Wm L. Fong
Senator Hugh Scott